

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01516 01 OF 03 161836Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 EC BRUSSELS 01516

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:EAGR,EEC
SUBJECT: EC 1977/78 FAR PRICE PACKAGE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1437

1.SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE GIVES THE COMMISSON'S GENERAL
COMMENTS BY COMMODITY SECTOR ACCOMPANYING ITS 1977/78
AGRICULTURAL PRICE PROPOSALS REPORTED IN THE REFTEL.END
SUMMARY.

2.THE COMMISSION'S PRICE PACKAGE STRESSED TS AIM OF
STRENGTHENING THE OVERALL EC EFFORTS AT FIFHTING INFLATION
WITHOUT IMPAIRING AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN THE GENERAL RECOVERY.
IN PARTICULAR,THE COMMISSION WAS INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING A
PRUDENT PRICE POLICY FOR MILK,WINE,OLIVE OIL AND SOME FRUIT
IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER SURPLUSES AND IN MODIFYING GREEN
RATES TO MOVE CLOSER TO AUNIFIED AGRICULTURAL MARKET.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 01516 01 OF 03 161836Z

3.THE COMMISSION RECOGNIZED THE USEFUL SHORT-TERM ROLE OF
MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS (MCA'S)IN PROTECTING FARMERS
OR CONSUMER AGAINST SUDDEN CURRENCY MOVEMENTS,BUT IT
OPPOSED STRONGLY MAINTAINING MCA'S OVER THE LONG-TERM DUE TO
THEIR HARMFUL TRADE DISTORTION,COMMODITY DISCRIMINATION
AND INCREASINGLY SERIOUS RESOURCE MISALLOCATION EFFECTS.

4.DAIRY SECTOR.THE COMMISSION STATED THAT MILK PRODUCTION IN THE COMMUNITY INCREASED BY 1.7 PERCENT AND MILK DELIVERIES TO DAIRIES BY 2.5 PERCENT INSPITE OF THE SEVERE DROUGHT IN 1976.AT THE END OF 1976 INTERVENTION AND PRIVATE BUTTER STOCKS AMOUNTED TO 260,000 METRIC TONS AND INTERVENTION STOCKS OF SKIM MILK POWDER TO 1,130,000 METRIC TONS.THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT HE GAP BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF MILK

AND DAIRY PRODUCTS WILL CONTINUE TO WIDEN IN 1977 WITH MILK PRODUCTIN INCREASING BY 2 TO 3 PERCENT AND MILK DELIVERIES INCREASING BY 3 TO 4, WHILE TOTAL EC BUTTER CONSUMPTION MAY DECREASE BY A FURTHER 4 PERCENT.THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO OCCUR EVEN WITH THE SPECIAL MEASURES ALREADY EFFECTIVE UNDER PRESENT REGULATIONS AND THOSE NOW PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSON.TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONTINUING STRUCTURAL IMBALANCE IN THE DAIRY SECTOR,THE COMMISSION PROPOSED THAT THE TARGET PRICE FOR MILK SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM APRIL 1, 1977 AND BE INCREASED BY 3 PERCENT FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 1977. THE CONCIL WOULD ADJUST THE THRESHOLD PRICES IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE INCREASE IN THE TARGET PRICE.UK AND IRELAND WOULD ATTAIN COMMON PRICE LEVELS ON BUTTER ON JANUARY 1, 1978.THE COMMISSION ALSO PROPOSED TO CONTINUE THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF INWARD PROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUTTER, BUTTEROIL AND SKIM MILK POWDER AND TO EXTEND THE UBSIDY FOR BUTTER CONSUMPTION.FEOGA'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION THIS LATTER MEASURE IS TO BE INCREAYFM

5.MOST OF THE MEASURES PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED UNDER THE MILK UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 01516 01 OF 03 161836Z

ACTIONP PROGRAM OF LAST YEAR WERE MAINTAINED AS FOLLOWS:
A 2.5 PERCENT CORESPONSIBILITY LEVY AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1977 FOR ALL MILK DELIVERIES EXCEPT IN MOUNTAIN AREAS,SUBSIDIES FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS; AND DISEASE ERADICATION.TOEHR PROPOSED MEASURES WERE MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

A.THE COMMISSION REFERED TO ITS PENDING PROPOSAL FOR A VEGETABLE AND MARINE OILS TAX AND FACILITATED ITS EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE: THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY PROPOSED A TAX ON CERTAIN (VEGETABLE AND MARINE) OILS AND FATS.HOWEVER,IT RECOGNISES THAT OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH A TAX

NAND INDICATES THAT,IF THE COUJCIL IS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INCREASE COMMUNITY EXPENDITURES BY AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT TO THAT WHICH WOULD HAVE RESULTED FRM THE TAX ON OILS AND FATS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE CONSUMPTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS,AN NOTABLY BUTTER.END QUOTE.

B.THE PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY AID IN THE DAIRY SECTOR NOW WOULD PERMIT INVESTMENT SUBSIES

FOR RESTRUCTURING BUTTER DAIRIES WITH A CAPACITY OF LESS THAN 50 METRIC TONS PER YEAR, INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES FOR RESEARCH AND FOR PRODUCING NEW PRODUCTS TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL OUTLETS FOR MILK, AND FOR INVESTMENT IN THE USE OF LIQUID MILK IN ANIMAL FEED. INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF DAIRY COWS INTENDED FOR MILK PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE SUSPENDED UNDER THE COMMISSION ON PROPOSAL UNTIL MARCH 31, 1980. C. THE PROPOSAL ON THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF MILKFAT AND MILK PROTEINS IN DAIRY PRODUCTS NOW INCLUDES ICE CREAM AND WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE BUTTER AT REDUCED PRICES FOR THE ICE CREAM INDUSTRY DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01516 02 OF 03 161907Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 NSA-01 AID-05 CEA-01
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USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 EC BRUSSELS 01516

D. THE PROPOSAL FOR NONMARKETING AND BEEF CONVERSION PREMIUMS IS MAINTAINED. BUT NOW PROVIDES FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF OT APPLYING THIS SCHEME TO ITALY BECAUSE DAIRY HERDS THERE HAVE ALREADY DECLINED BY OVER 20 PERCENT IN THE LAST 7 YEARS. THE COMMUNITY-FINANCED PORTION OF THE PREMIUM SCHEME WOULD INCREASE FROM 50 TO 80 PERCENT AND BE SHARED EQUALLY BY THE GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE SECTIONS OF FEOGA. THE PREMIUM SCHEME WOULD APPLY TO ALL DAIRY PRODUCERS WHOSE PRODUCTION DOES NOT EXCEED 120,000 KGS. HIGHER SUBSIDIES WOULD BE PAID TO PRODUCERS WHOSE PRODUCTION IS LESS THAN 30,000 KGS.

6. THE COMMISSION WOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN THE FEOGA CONTRIBUTION FOR PREMIUMS TO OLD DAIRY PRODUCERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET OUT OF FARMING. IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE PREMIUMS, FARMERS WOULD HAVE HAD TO SLAUGHTER THEIR DAIRY COWS AND

REPLACEMENT HEIFERS AND HAVE HAD THEIR LAND INCORPORATED INTO OTHER EXISTING HOLDINGS BY OCTOBER 1981. THE PREMIUM WOULD AMOUNT TO AT LEAST 50 AND NO MORE THAN 100 UNITS OF ACCOUNT PER YEAR AND PER HECTARE OF FODDER AREA INTENDED FOR DAIRY FARM USE I 1976. IT WOULD BE PAID TO PRODUCERS UNTIL THEIR 65 TH BIRTHDAY. THOSE DAIRIES WHICH ARE UNWILLING TO ENTER UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 EC BRU 01516 02 OF 03 161907Z

CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY LIQUID SKIM MILK TO DAIRY PRODUCERS ON A YEAR-ROUND BASIS WOULD HAVE THEIR RIGHT TO DELIVER SKIM MILK POWDER TO INTERVENTION AGENCIES RESTRICTED.

7. BEEF AND VEAL. THE GUIDE PRICE FOR CALVES IS ABOLISHED. THE COMMISSION PROPOSES THAT THE BEEF AND VEAL MARKETING YEAR BEGIN ON APRIL 1 INSTEAD OF APRIL 4, TO COINCIDE WITH THE NEW APPROVED IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS. THE COMMISSION WILL COMPLETE BY JUNE 1, 1977 A REPORT ON THE RESPECTIVE MERITS OF THE INTERVENTION SYSTEM, SLAUGHTER PREMIUMS AND CALVING PREMIUMS. ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT, THE COMMISSION WILL MAKE PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL BY JULY 31, 1977 ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PREMIUM SYSTEM AND ON GENERAL RULES FOR APPLYING THE INTERVENTION SYSTEM. FOR THE MOMENT, THE COMMISSION PROPOSES TO CONTINUE FIXING THE INTERVENTION PRICE AT 90 PERCENT OF THE NEW GUIDE PRICE AND TO MAINTAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF SUSPENDING INTERVENTION BUYING WHEN THE MARKET PRICE IN A MEMBER STATE REACHES OR EXCEEDS 95 PERCENT OF THE GUIDE PRICE. THE AUTHORIZATION TO MEMBER STATES TO GRANT A VARIABLE PREMIUM FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF CERTAIN BEEF ANIMALS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO JULY 31, 1977. THE UK AND IRELAND WILL APPLY THE COMMON PRICE LEVEL ON JANUARY 1, 1978.

8. GRAINS. THE PROPOSED AVERAGE INCREASE IN ALL GRAINS PRICES IN U.A. IS 3.1 PERCENT. THE COMMON SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR FEED GRAINS OTHER THAN CORN WOULD INCREASE 3 PERCENT AND FOR CORN WOULD INCREASE 4.7 PERCENT AS A STEP TOWARDS A COMMON SINGLE PRICE. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION OF SOFT WHEAT OF MEDIUM BREAD-MAKING QUALITY, THE COMMISSION FEELS THAT THE REFERENCE PRICE SHOULD BE CALCULATED BY ADDING 15 PERCENT TO THE COMMON SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR SOFT WHEAT. HOWEVER, FOR 1977/78, THE COMMISSION IS PROPOSING THAT THE REFERENCE PRICE BE SET AT A LEVEL EQUAL TO THE COMMON SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE PLUS A 13 PERCENT DIFFERENTIAL, WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE MINIMUM QUALITY FOR BREAD-MAKING. IN CALCULATING THE TARGET PRICE FOR SOFT WHEAT, A MARKET COMPONENT OF 6.5 PERCENT (TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 EC BRU 01516 02 OF 03 161907Z

ALLOW ADEQUATE PRICE SPREAD BY QUALITY)AND A COMPONENT OF 12.76 U.S.(REPRESENTING ORMES-DUISBURG TRANSPORT COSTS)WOULD BE ADDED TO THE REFERENCE PRICE FOR BREAD-MAKING QUALITY WHEAT.

9.NO INCREASE IS PROPOSED FOR THE SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR DURUM WHEAT SO AS TO IMPROVE THE INTERVENTION PRICE RATIO BETWEEN IT AND BREAD-MAKING SOFT WHEAT.THE TARGET PRICE FOR DURUM WHEAT WAS FIXED BY ADDING 4.2 PERCENT TO THE SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE.THE AMOUNT OF THE SUBSIDY FOR DURUM WHEAT WOULD NOT INCREASE AND WOULD BE LIMITED TO THAT PART OF ITALY WHERE IT WILL BE MOST USEFUL.

10.THE COMMON TARGET PRICE FOR BARLEY AND CORN WAS CALCULATED BY INCREASING THE COMMON SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR BARLEY BY 10 PERCENT AND 12.76 U.A./M.T. (ORMES-DUISBURG)TRANSPORT COSTS).IT WAS FELT THAT THE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR RYE SHOULD BE INCREASED BY THE SAME AMOUNT OF 3 PERCENT AS THE COMMON SINGLE INTERVENTIONPRICE FOR BARLEY.

11.SUGAR AND ISOGLUCOSE THE INTERVENTION AND TARGET PRICES FOR SUGAR WOULD BE FIXED WITHOUT INCORPORATING THE STORAGE COST LEVY.THE PURPOSE HERE IS TO SIMPLIFY THE SETTING OF THE GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ACP SUGAR BY MAKING THE COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONPRICE A MORE DIRECT GUIDE.IN THE EVENT OF SALE TO THE INTERVENTION AGENCY,STORAGE COSTS WOULD BE PAYABLE BY THE AGENCY.MAXIMUM QUOTAS FOR 1977/78 WOULD BE PAYABLE BY THE AGENCY.MAXIMUM QUOTAS FOR 1977/78 WOULD BE FIXED AT 125 PERCENT OF THE BASIC QUOTA AND THE PRODUCTION LEVY ON "B" OR SUPPLEMENTARY QUOTA SUGAR AT ITS PRESENT MAXIMUM LEVEL, NAMELY, 30 PERCENT OF THE INTERVENTION PRICE.THIS LEVY IS USED TO OFFSET DISPOSAL COSTS.

12.IN VIEW OF INCREASING ISOGLUCOSE PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND ITS POTENTIAL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO REPLACE BEET SUGAR,THE COMMISSION PROPOSED THAT APPROPRIATE LEVY BE ESTABLISHED ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 EC BRU 01516 02 OF 03 161907Z

ISOGLUCOSE FOR A 2-YEAR PERIOD TO OFFSET THE COST OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES FOR SUGAR.THIS LEVY WOULD BE THE SAME AS THE PRODUCER LEVY ON B QUOTA SUGAR.THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY ASKED MEMBER STATES TO EXTEND THE BAN ON INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES FOR ISOGLUCOSE PRODUCTION AFTER FEBRUARY 1, AND IT WILL BE MAKING FURTHER PROPOSALS ON ISOGLUCOSE TO THE COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF FOOD AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AND MEMBER STATE FISCAL TAXES.

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01516 03 OF 03 161914Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 NSA-01 AID-05 CEA-01

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UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 EC BRUSSELS 01516

13. RICE. INTERVENTION PRICES FIXED FOR VERCELLI AND ARLES ARE TO BE REPLACED BY A SINGLE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR VERCELLI BECAUSE ITALY IS THE ONLY IMPORTANT RICE PRODUCER IN THE COMMUNITY. THE PROPOSED INTERVENTION PRICE FOR RICE TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE INTERCHANGEABILITY OF CORN WITH RICE CRPS. THE PROTECTIVE ELEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE THRESHOLD PRICE FOR MILLED RICE WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT 11.50 U.A./M.T.IN

VIEW OF THE RECENT DECLINE IN IMPORTS OF MILLED RICE.

14. FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. THE FOLLOWING INCREASES IN BASIC AND PURCHASE PRICES ARE PROPOSED: 2 PERCENT FOR TABLE GRAPES, ORANGES AND MANDARINS, 3 PERCENT FOR APPLES AND PEARS AND 5 PERCENT FOR CAULIFLOWERS, TOMATOES, PEACHES AND LEMONS. THE LOWER PRICE INCREASE FOR GRAPES IS TO AVOID IMBALANCE WITHIN THE WINE SECTOR, FOR ORANGES AND MANDARINS IT IS TO ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCERS TO CONTINUE CONVERSION OF EXISTING PLANTATIONS AND FOR APPLES AND PEARS IT IS BECAUSE OF THE STRUCTURAL SURPLUSES IN CERTAIN VARIETIES. PENETRATION PREMIUMS FOR ORANGES, MANDARINS AND CLEMENTINES WOULD BE INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT. THE PENETRATION PREMIUM FOR LEMONS WOULD BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 EC BRU 01516 03 OF 03 161914Z

YEAR AND INCREASED BY 2.5 PERCENT. SINCE THE BASIC AND BUYING-IN PRICES FOR LEMONS WILL BE INCREASED BY 5 PERCENT, THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE REFERENCE PRICE FOR LEMONS COULD

BE INCREASED UP TO 2.5 PERCENT.THE COMMISSION FURTHER PROPOSES TO EXTEND PROCESSING PREMIUMS AVAILABLE FOR ORANGES TO LEMONS,IN ORDER TO PUT ITALIAN LEMON JUICE IN A MORE COMPETITIVE POSITION VIS-A-VIS THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLIES.

15.TOBACCO.THE COMMISSIO IS UNDERTAKING A CAUTIOUS PRICE POOICY FOR TOBACCO IN RECOGNITION OF THE INCREASED VOLUME OF COMMISSION PRODUCTION AND THE SHARP DIVERGENCES BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND WORLD PRICES.ACCORDINGLY,SMALL OR NO INCREASES IN THE NORM PRICES AND PREMIUMS ARE PROPOSED FOR THOSE VARIETIES WHERE A CONSIDERABLE IMBALANCE EXISTS BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND (BENEVENTANO),AND MODERATE INCREASES FROM 2 TO 4 PERCENT IN NORM PRICES AND PREMIUMS FOR THOS VARIETIES IN STEADY DEMAND.

16.OIL AND OILSEEDS.THE MARKET TARGET PRICE FOR OLIVE OIL IS TO BE FIXED SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT LEVEL IN TERMS OF BOTH FRENCH FRANCS AND ITALIAN LIRA.THE COMMISSION WILL BE PROPOSING SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES TO THE COUNCIL TO FACILITATE THE CONVERSIONS TO NEW VARIETIES OF COLZA WITH A LOW ERUCIC ACID CONTENT,AND MEASURES TO FACILITATE EXPORTS OF COLZA OIL.THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A HIGHTER-THAN-AVERAGE PRICE INCREASE FOR UNSFLOWER SEEDS IS TO ENCOURAGE ITS PRODUCTION AS WELL AS COMPENSATE IN PART FOR THE EFFECTS ON THE CRUSHING INDUSTRY OF ANY LACK OF SUPPLIES OF EC COLZA SEED.THE GUIDE PRICE FOR SOYBEANS WOULD BE INCREASED BY 7 PERCENT,BECAUSE SOYBEAN PRICES IN THE COMMUNITY ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE COMPARED TO PRICES OF OTHER COMPETITIVE CROPS,ESPECIALLY CORN.THE FLAX SEED GUIDE PRICE WOULD INCREASE BY 8 PERCENT.THE SUBSIDY FOR COTTONSEED WILL GET A TOKEN INCREASE IN TERMS OF U.A.BUT IN TERMS OF LIRA THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH " TO SUSTAIN CERTAIN INTEREST IN THIS CROP WHICH IS OF VERY LIMITED IMPORTANCE."

17.DEHYDRATED FODDER.IN ORDER TO INSURE THE RECOVERY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 01516 03 OF 03 161914Z

PRODUCTION AFTER THE 1976 DROUGHT AND TO ASSURE FARMERS' INCOME I LINE TWITH THAT OBTAINED FROM COMPETING CROPS, PARTICULARLY GRAINS,THE SUBSIDY FOR DEHYDRATED FODDER WOULD RISE BY 5.5 PERCENT.

18. THE FOREGOING SUMMARIZES SOME OF THE GENERAL COMMENTS IN VOLUME 1 OF THE COMMISSION'S PRICE PROPOSALS.MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN VOLUME2,WHICH IS STILL NOT OFF THE PRESSES.
WE ARE FORWARDING COPIES OF VOLUME 1 TO SCHROETER, USDA/FAS AND CASEY,STATE/EUR/RPE.
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